

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 236845

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MADAGASCAR EXPELS TWO US EMBASSY OFFICIALS

EMBASSY TANANARIVE REPORTS THAT MADAGASCAR HAS PNGED TWO MEMBERS OF THE MISSION--THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE NCO. AT A SEPTEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER RAKATOMALALA CHARGED THAT THE TWO WERE EXPELLED FOR "INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MADAGASCAR BECAUSE THEY WERE IMPLICATED IN THE STUDENT STRIKES."

EMBASSY COMMENT: ANXIOUS TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 236845

LACKING ABSOLUTE CONTROL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NERVOUS

OVER ITS INABILITY TO GET SOME 50 STRIKING TECHNICAL STUDENTS BACK TO CLASSES. THE GDRM'S SEIZING UPON THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S LUNCH WITH STUDENTS IS AN IRRATIONAL MOVE PROBABLY LED BY HARD-NOSED INTERIOR MINISTER PORTOS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TANANARIVE 1495, 9/22 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) TANANARIVE 1509, 9/23.

2. POLAND FACES PROLONGED ECONOMIC WOES

IN A TELEVISED SPEECH TO THE POLISH PARLIAMENT SEPTEMBER 22, PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ DEPICTED THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN BLEAK TERMS. WHILE PROMISING THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN FOOD PRICES FOR THE NEXT YEAR, THE PREMIER SERVED NOTICE THAT THINGS ARE NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY WARSAW REPORTS THAT JAROSZEWICZ BLAMED POLAND'S PRESENT DIFFICULTIES ON:

--THREE SUCCESSIVE YEARS OF POOR WEATHER LEADING TO AGRICULTURAL SHORTFALLS;

--AN IRRATIONAL PRICE STRUCTURE;

--RECESSION AND INFLATION IN THE WEST; AND

--POOR PLANNING.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE JAROSZEWICZ SPEECH WAS AIMED AT DEFUSING POPULAR TENSIONS, BUT THE LACK OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH POLAND'S PROBLEMS SHOWS THAT THE GIEREK GOVERNMENT STILL SUFFERS FROM ACUTE POLICY DRIFT. THE SPEECH REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE LEADERSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CANDID WITH THE POLISH PEOPLE BEFORE THE JUNE PRICE HIKES. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) WARSAW 6852, 9/23.

3. GUYANA GOES PUBLIC WITH SUPPORT FOR WEST

THE GUYANESE THAW IS CONTINUING, REPORTS EMBASSY GEORGETOWN. IN A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE DURING WHICH THE OPPOSITION, LED BY CHEDDI JAGAN, CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 236845

FOR DEALING WITH CAPITALIST INSTITUTIONS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT GUYANA WANTED ACCESS TO WESTERN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. STATISTICS CITED BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE DEBATE REPORTEDLY CAME FROM ARTICLES SUPPLIED BY THE EMBASSY. THE GUYANA CHRONICLE SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE FAVORABLE EDITORIAL TREATMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE PRESS HAS QUOTED GOG OFFICIALS STATING THAT GUYANA WANTED WESTERN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) GEORGETOWN 1866, 9/22.

4. IRAQ VENTS FRUSTRATION WITH NEIGHBORS

CONTINUING VITRIOLIC PRESS ATTACKS ON SYRIA AND THE AREA'S "REACTIONARY IMPERIALIST REGIMES" (KUWAIT) REFLECT IRAQI FRUSTRATION WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. US INTERESTS SECTION BAGHDAD REPORTS THAT:

--CONTEMPTUOUS OF KUWAIT, THE IRAQIS INTERPRETED KUWAIT'S DOMESTIC ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST INFLUENCE AS A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION TOWARD IRAQ AND RESPONDED WITH BORDER INCURSIONS DESIGNED TO CAUTION THE KUWAITIS.

--MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF IRAQ, SYRIA'S ASSAD SEEMS TO HAVE SURVIVED HIS HIGH-RISK POLICY IN LEBANON, WHICH IRAQ HAD HOPED TO USE AS A LEVER FOR ASSAD'S OVERTHROW.

US INTERESTS COMMENT: PUBLISHED RHETORIC IS REMINISCENT OF THE LATE SIXTIES WHEN IRAQ WAS ON BAD TERMS WITH MOST NEIGHBORS. THE REGIME HAS MOST LIKELY LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, AND WILL NOT BECOME AS ISOLATED AND DEPENDENT ON THE USSR AS IT WAS IN ITS IDEOLOGICALLY RIGID DAYS. (SECRET) USINT BAGHDAD 1380, 9/21.

5. JAPAN: DIET SESSION OPENS IN TRADITIONAL CHAOS

AFTER A WEEK OF HAGGLING, THE RULING LDP AND THE OP-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 236845

POSITION PARTIES HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION WHICH OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 21. THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO MAKE AN INTERIM LOCKHEED REPORT AND SAID THAT THE DISCLOSURE OF "GREY NAMES" (UNINDICTABLE PERSONS) AND THE CALLING OF DIET WITNESSES WOULD BE LEFT UP TO THE DIET. PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR THE SESSION ARE LIMITED. MIKI:

--HAS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY TO UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE OF A BILL TO PERMIT FLOTATION OF DEFICIT FINANCING BONDS;
AND

--WANTS ACTION ON NATIONAL RAILWAY FARES AND TELEPHONE/ TELEGRAPH RATE INCREASES.

EMBASSY TOKYO COMMENT: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY WEEKS
WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE A RETURN TO TRADITIONAL POLITICAL
MANEUVERING. IF TRUE TO PATTERN, IT WILL MEAN THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WILL GET THROUGH SOME, BUT NOT ALL, OF ITS

IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM, BUT ONLY AFTER SOME
CHAOTIC MOMENTS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TOKYO 14283,
9/22. ROBINSON

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